GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1763
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
MODERNISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES
DINSHA J. PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major thrust of Ninth Plan was upgradation of technology and modernization of postal operation particularly in the flung areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of targets fixed for the purpose and achievements made during the four years of the plan; and

(c) the extent to which backward areas in Gujarat have been benefited from the policy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The induction and upgradation of technology and modernisation of postal operations was a major thrust area in the Ninth Five Year Plan. While technology induction and modernisation has been done mainly in large Post Offices, special care has been taken to benefit the public in far flung areas of the country also.

(b) A target of 1,332 Extended Satellite Money Order Stations (ESMOs) was fixed during the first four years of the Ninth Plan. Against this 1,050 ESMOs have been installed in as many post offices. By installing another 150 new High Speed VSAT stations full target during the Plan against this item has been achieved. Another item was installation of PC based Multi Purpose Counter Machines in Local Area Network. A target of 4,000 units was fixed. Out of this the Department had already installed more than 4,500 PCs. 700 post offices have also been modernised against the target of 440 post offices during the first four years of the Ninth Plan.

(c) In the State of Gujarat, Multi Purpose Counter Machines have been provided at nine offices during the year 1997-98. Extended Satellite Money Order service was provided at twelve offices in Gujarat State during the year 1999-2000. All these places are considered to be backward in terms of economic growth.

Thirteen post offices in backward area of Gujarat have been modernised by way of their face-lifting, providing them upgraded equipments like electronic franking machines, fake currency detection machine etc. during the years 1997-98 to 2000-2001.